

Serial No. N/A  
Preliminary Amendment dated December 2, 2003  
In Rely of N/A

Amendments to the Title:

Please delete the entire title and insert the new title:

MANWAY AND MANHOLE PARTICULARLY SUITED  
FOR NEGATIVE PRESSURE TANK ACCESS WAYS

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 6-8, which begins "This application claims" with the following new paragraph.

This application is a divisional application of nonprovisional application no. 10/118,329, filed April 9, 2002, which claims the priority of application no. 60/282,184, filed April 9, 2001, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

On page 3, please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 1-10, as follows:

The manhole MH includes a manway MW that surrounds an opening O formed in the tank shell TS that communicates with the interior I of the tank. The manway MW contains a cylindrical body section CB having an inner flange IF which is welded to the tank shell TS and an outer bolting flange BF. A cover C is secured to the outer flange by a number of bolts B. A gasket G is generally mounted between the outer flange and the cover C to prevent leakage from the tank to the surrounding environment. Although the manway MW is shown oriented vertically, the actual orientation could vary anywhere from vertical upward opening to

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horizontal to vertical downward opening.